

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 878 – HB 1246

March 9, 2009

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004748): Deletes the language of the original bill. Establishes minimum training requirements for paid and volunteer firefighters. Includes a requirement that firefighters excused by their chief officer from operating in environments immediately dangerous to life and health are required to take the basic training course but are exempt from the live firefighting training course.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Revenue – \$225,900/FY09-10 and FY10-11
\$222,300/FY11-12
and Subsequent Years
Increase State Expenditures – \$6,900/One-Time
\$759,300/FY09-10
\$761,300/FY10-11
\$744,300/FY11-12
and Subsequent Years
Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$325,900/
FY09-10 and FY10-11*
Exceeds \$322,300/FY11-12
and Subsequent Years*

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

**Increase State Revenue – \$235,600/FY09-10 and FY10-11
\$232,000/FY11-12
and Subsequent Years**
**Increase State Expenditures – \$6,900/One-Time
\$774,600/FY09-10
\$776,600/FY10-11
\$759,600/FY11-12
and Subsequent Years**
**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$340,600/
FY09-10 and FY10-11***

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**Exceeds \$337,000/FY11-12
and Subsequent Years***

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- The Department of Commerce and Insurance will experience an increase in state expenditures for two new clerical positions to handle certification paperwork (total for both positions is \$54,714 salary and \$28,186 benefits), three new contracted field representative positions (\$66,500), administrative expenses (\$22,400), recurring computer costs (\$2,200 in FY09-10 and \$4,200 in FY10-11 and subsequent years), and office space leasing (\$3,300) for a total recurring increase of \$177,300 in FY09-10 and \$179,300 in FY10-11 and subsequent years. The Department will experience a one-time increase of \$6,900 for computers and office landscaping.
- The Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Academy with the Department of Commerce and Insurance will provide training for 150 firefighters in the “Train-the-Trainer” program. Tuition is \$36 per firefighter and will be paid by local governments, increasing local expenditures \$5,400 and increasing state revenue \$5,400. State expenditures will increase \$25,458 for the cost of conducting the training. However, all firefighters must be trained by July 1, 2012. The above costs are for FY09-10 and FY10-11. Beginning in FY11-12 and continuing in subsequent years, the Academy expects to train approximately 50 firefighters per year, increasing local expenditures \$1,800 and increasing state revenue \$1,800. State expenditures will increase \$8,486 for the cost of conducting the training in FY11-12 and subsequent years.
- The Academy will also train 1,050 firefighters per year in the basic and live burn classes. Tuition for these two classes is \$210 per firefighter and will be paid by local governments, increasing local expenditures \$220,500 and increasing state revenue \$220,500. State expenditures will increase \$556,528 for the cost of conducting the training. The Academy expects to continue to train 1,050 firefighters every year.
- There are approximately 27,000 firefighters statewide. Approximately 10,800 (40 percent) will require training under this legislation. The other 16,200 will be exempt from training because they entered fire service before June 30, 2004.
- The approximate number of firefighters who will be trained by local governments whose trainers are certified by the Department is 9,750. The cost of training will vary across local governments, depending on what training programs are already in place. Local government expenditures are estimated to increase in an amount exceeding \$100,000.
- There are also approximately 1,080 firefighters who are exempt from live firefighting training because they will not operate in environments

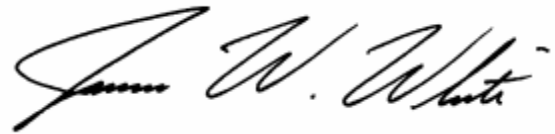
dangerous to life and health. However, these firefighters will take the basic firefighting training. Approximately 108 firefighters will be trained at the Academy. Tuition for the basic class is \$90 per firefighter and will be paid by local governments, increasing local expenditures \$9,720 and increasing state revenue \$9,720. State expenditures will increase \$15,290 for the cost of conducting the training. The Academy expects to continue to train 108 firefighters in the basic class every year.

- Approximately 972 firefighters will be trained by local governments in the basic class only. Local government expenditures are estimated to increase in an amount exceeding \$5,000.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "White" clearly legible.

James W. White, Executive Director

/kmc